

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL MEMORANDUM**

**HB 716 – SB 976**

May 6, 2009

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS (007971, 007894):** Amendment 007971 deletes the original bill in its entirety. Authorizes individuals with a handgun carry permit to possess a firearm within the boundaries of any public park, wildlife management area, natural area, forest or other similar place owned or operated by the state or local government. Prohibits the Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) from changing existing signs prohibiting firearms unless such replacement is in accordance with a regular replacement schedule. Authorizes local governments to elect to prohibit persons from carrying handguns at such locations. Amendment 007894 adds language to the bill authorizing local governments to prohibit individuals with a handgun carry permit from possessing a firearm within the boundaries of any state park if at least 50 percent of the park is within the municipality or county.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:**

(CORRECTED)

Increase State Expenditures - \$38,200/One-Time

**FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:**

**Decrease State Revenue - \$300/Wildlife Resources Fund**

**Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant**

**Decrease Local Revenue - \$400**

**Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$50,000/  
One-Time/Permissive**

Assumptions applied to amendments:

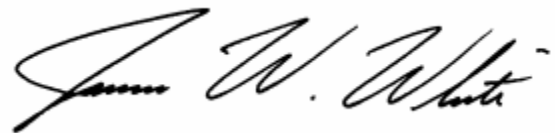
- 2007 and 2008 data concerning violations for persons carrying a handgun in wildlife management areas, refuges, and public hunting areas was unavailable.

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- In 2006 there were eight violations for handgun possession in wildlife management areas, refuges, and public hunting areas that would be exempt under the provisions of this bill. The total amount of fines and court costs collected in association with the eight convictions was \$1,330. In 2005 there were no such convictions.
- An average of four such convictions each year ( $8/2 = 4$ ).
- The average amount of revenue collected each year for such convictions is estimated to be \$665 per year ( $\$1,330/2 = \$665$ ).
- A split of 55 percent to local government ( $\$665 \times 55\% = \$365.75$ ) and 45 percent ( $\$665 \times 45\% = \$299.25$ ) to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) for any fees and fines associated with such convictions.
- No additional personnel will be required by TWRA or TDEC due to any difficulty related to the enforcement of wildlife or environmental regulations. Any increase in state expenditures related to enforcement is estimated to be not significant.
- A permissive, one-time increase in local government expenditures exceeding \$50,000 related to changing park signs if local governments opt to prohibit carrying handguns in local parks.

### **CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "White" clearly distinguishable.

James W. White, Executive Director

/cce